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April 4, 2012

Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz,  
Garrett, Montgomery, and Rotunda  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE:Agenda Item 17: AB 2162 (Portantino) –Economic Interest Disclosure —Support**

Dear Chair Ravel and Commissioners,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our 400,000 national members, we urge you to support Assembly Bill 2162, which will increase the number of value ranges in disclosure statements for investment, interests, and income.

AB 2162, changes the existing ranges of values to a comprehensive list with larger value ranges. These changes extend the range for the fair market value of investments or interest in real property from the existing \$1,000,000 cap to \$10,000,000. AB 2162 will also extend the range for income from the existing \$100,000 cap to \$10,000,000.

These new ranges will increase disclosure and allow for more accurate interpretations of where conflicts of interest may occur. A person's interest on any given issue may stem from a personal desire to benefit oneself. Therefore, any increase disclosure that results from AB 2162 will help ensure public decisions are authentic and without financial bias. These proposed changes would require more detailed disclosures, but are not nearly as strict as required of Congress. Attached is Table I which shows the disclosure requirements for Congress compared to the proposed changes in AB 2162. The Commission will see in Table I that federal elected officials are required to disclose far more information than AB 2162 proposes. We are currently working with the author's office on possible amendments which will codify the federal requirements.

For these reasons, California Common Cause urges you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Phillip Ung  
Policy Advocate

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